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INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS WORLD ASSOCIATION 14.8.91

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman

As we are aware this decade 1990-2000 has been declared the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism". G.A Resolution 43/47 of 22nd November 1988, with a view of granting the rights to self-determination and independance to territories which the Declaration on decolonization continues to apply.

The recent enjoyment of a fundamental principle of Human Rights, the rights to self-determination, by Namibia was welcomed by the International Community.

However, we can not forget that there are still other territories that are denied the rights to self-determination to which they are entitled by the established international norms.

One of these territories has lost up to one third of its population, "thats two hundred thousand people (200 000) and continue to this very moment suffering violations, of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

I'm refering to EAST-TIMOR a territory which was invaded in 1975 and annexed in 1976 by the Republic of Indonesia.

The response of the relevant United Nations bodies to this invasion came without delay, on the 12 December 1975 the General Assembly in its resolution 3485 (XXX) strongly deplored the Indonesian military intervention and called upon the Indonesian Government "to withdraw without delay its armed forces from the territory in order to enable the people of the territory freely to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

The Security Council of the United Nations reflected these exact sentiments in its resolutions 384 (1975) of 22 December in 1975 and 389 (1976) of 22 April 1976.

On 25 March 1991 the U.N. Secretary General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, stressed to the Parliamentarians for EAST-TIMOR that those Security Council resolutions were still binding on the U.N. He also said that the question of EAST-TIMOR had equal weight at the U.N with the already solved question of Namibia and the question of Western Sahara.

With the above facts in mind we have reasons to believe that the people of EAST-TIMOR continue to be denied their fundamental rights to self-determination.

Turning now to the current situation in EAST-TIMOR we regret to say that gross Human Rights violations still occur today. We have read with carefull attention the recent detailed

Report of Amnesty International dated August 19991 and sad to say that, political prisoners, torture and ill-treatment, disappearences, unfair political trials and extrajudicial execution are all continuing occurences in EAST-TIMOR.

We also regret to say that there continues to be restriction imposed by local military authorities upon the activities of specialised non-governmental organizations.

But however on the bright side, it has come to our attention that the East-Timorese resistance leader Xanana Gusmao, knowing the impossibility of a military solution of the conflict by either side, has called on the Indonesian military for a dialogue without pre-conditions with a view to finding a peaceful durable solution to the conflict.

To conclude Mr Chairman,

The Human Rights conditions in East-TIMOR will continue at the present level and may deteriorate if the concerned parties do not engage in a process of dialogue. It is up to this U.N. body to support the initiatives of the East-Timorese resistance leader Xanana Gusmao and encourage the Indonesian authorities to engage in a dialogue to search for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Thank you.